

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for returning initialed PTO-1449 forms corresponding to Information Disclosure Statements received by the PTO Dec. 4, 2000 and Apr. 10, 2000. Receipt of a search report in a related European application, EP 00950804.5, necessitated the filing of an additional Information Disclosure Statement on July 18, 2003. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner review the references cited therein and acknowledge the same by returning the corresponding PTO-1449.

Applicant cancels all claims, except claims 36-40, without conceding any of the examiner's positions and without prejudice or disclaimer. The applicant reserves the right to pursue those claims and other claims and to contest the examiner's positions in subsequent or related applications (inclusive of 10/048,186).

Claims 36-40 have been allowed by the Examiner in the action dated June 30, 2003. In view of the cancellation of rejected and withdrawn claims, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance.

Please apply any charges to deposit account 06-1050, referencing attorney docket number 06947-013001.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 9-30-03

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